



## India: Largest Importer of Coking Coal by 2025

According to a report published by Fitch Solutions Macro Research, **India will overtake China as the largest importer of coking coal by 2025.**

- It is estimated that India's coking coal consumption will grow at an annual average rate of **5.4% between 2019 and 2028**, driven by an expansion in steel production.
- In global terms, **China influences prices of coking coal**, as it accounts for roughly **two-thirds of global coking coal production and consumption**.
  - However, steel production in China may get reduced in the medium term due to the **slowing of the Chinese economy** and construction sectors.

### Coking Coal

- Coking coal, also known as **metallurgical coal**, is used to create coke, one of the key **inputs for the production of steel**.
  - Coke is used as a fuel and as a reducing agent in smelting iron ore in a blast furnace (**converting iron oxide (hematite) into iron metal**).
- **Process of Coking**
  - Coke is a solid fuel made by heating coal in the absence of air so that the volatile components are driven off.
  - The process of heating coal in this manner is referred to as **carbonization** or coke making.
  - The chemical composition alone cannot be used to predict whether a coal is suitable for coking.
    - **Coking coals generally have volatile matter contents of 20% to 32% - i.e., the low- and medium-volatile bituminous ranks.**
  - There are many varieties of coal in the world, **ranging from lignite to anthracite**.

**Source: THBL**

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